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GENETIC DIVERSITY ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND GENERATIONS OF FAST-GROWING STRIPED CATFISH (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* Sauvage, 1878) USING MICROSATELLITE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Genetic diversity is an important aspect of a selective breeding program to produce fish broodstock carrying superior traits such as fast-growing, disease resistant, and other traits. We have carried out a breeding program to produce a fast-growing striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) since 2010. The aim of this study was to evaluate the genetic variation of the first (G-1) and second (G-2) generations of fast-growing striped catfish using microsatellite analysis. The G-1 and G-2 populations were selected individually from populations. DNA samples were collected from 40 ind. fish of each population and analyzed using five microsatellite loci (Pg1, Pg2, Pg3, Pg13, and Pg14). The results showed that the number of alleles per loci in the G-1 and G-2 populations ranged from 4 to 7 alleles, with an average of five for each generation. The average of observed heterozygosity of the G-1 population (0.420) was lower than the G-2 population (0.495). Inbreeding level showed that the G-1 population was more inbred than the G-2 population. The study also found that both striped catfish populations had relatively low genetic variation. This result suggests that monitoring of genetic variation and better scheme of good spawning were needed on the next selection program to produce the intended fast-growing striped catfish.

KEYWORDS: genetic; microsatellite; *Pangasianodon*; catfish

INTRODUCTION

Worldwide aquaculture production has increased considerably during the last four decades and surpassed capture fisheries in terms of fish supply for human consumption (FAO, 2016). It is expected that aquaculture production will continue to increase further in the future, particularly the fish production from freshwater aquaculture. Striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*), or locally referred to as "patin siam" in Indonesia is an important freshwater aquaculture commodity in the Southeast Asia country such as Vietnam (Bui *et al.*, 2010), Indonesia (Directorate of Aquaculture, 2016) and Thailand (Na-Nakorn & Moeikum, 2009).

Various studies have been done to optimize striped catfish production. However, information related to the genetic diversity of striped catfish popu-

lations is currently limited. According to Hughes *et al.* (2008), genetic diversity is an important aspect of a population dynamics, because it is directly related to the evolutionary potential of the population and the deleterious effects of inbreeding.

Among molecular genetic methods, microsatellite represents the most widely applicable DNA technology for determining genetic diversity. Microsatellites are short stretches (tens to hundreds of base pairs) of DNA composed of di-tri, or tetranucleotide repeats arrayed in tandem (Park & Moran, 1994). They have been shown to be highly polymorphic in teleost fish (Zane *et al.*, 2002; Das *et al.*, 2005; and Chistiakov *et al.*, 2005) and in striped catfish (Na-Nakorn *et al.*, 2006; So *et al.*, 2006; Na-Nakorn & Moeikum, 2009; and Ha *et al.*, 2009).

The aim of this study was to evaluate the genetic variation of the first (G-1) and second (G-2) populations of fast-growing striped catfish using microsatellite analysis.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fish and Sample Collections

The samples consisted of the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish. A total of 40 fish was sampled from each population at the Research Institute for Fish Breeding. Approximately 1 cm² of the caudal fin tissue was extracted from the fish and placed into a microtube containing 1 mL of 70% alcohol and stored at room temperature for the subsequent DNA extraction process.

DNA Extraction

Genomic DNA of each sample was extracted using DNA extraction kit (GeneJet Genomic DNA Purification) following the protocols recommended by the manufacturer (Thermo Scientific, Lithuania). Briefly, the protocol consisted of series of steps including cell lysis, DNA precipitation, binding DNA to the column, washing, and elution. Cell lysis was performed by weighing of approximately 10 mg of a tissue sample. In order to check if the genomic DNA extraction process had been successful, the samples were tested on a mini horizontal gel electrophoresis system. In the test, the sample was loaded into a 1.5% (w/v) agarose gel and the system was powered by 65-volt electricity for 60 minutes. The gel was then stained with peqGREEN (Vwr, UK) 1 µg/mL and viewed using ultraviolet transilluminator gel documentation system.

Microsatellite Primers

Five microsatellite loci Pg1, Pg2, Pg3, Pg13, and Pg14 showing polymorphisms in *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* were used in this study (Na-Nakorn *et al.*, 2006 and Na-Nakorn & Moeikum, 2009). The primers' characteristics used to amplify the five microsatellite loci are presented in Table 1.

Amplification of Microsatellite Loci and Scoring

A total of 2 µL (d" 200 ng) of each extracted genomic DNA was amplified using type-it microsatellite PCR (Qiagen). The PCR process was programmed as follows: 95°C for five minutes; (95°C for 30 seconds, 6°C-62°C for 90 seconds according to the degree of the attaching temperature (T_m) per primer (Table 1); 72°C for 30 seconds) of 28 cycles; and 72°C for 30 minutes. The PCR amplification results were loaded on 2% (w/v) agarose gel using an electrophoresis method. The electrophoresis results were observed under UV transilluminator and photographed using a Canon EOS 1100D digital camera.

Microsatellite locus polymorphisms were screened using the QIAxcel (Qiagen) fragment analyzer and QIAxcel DNA High-resolution kit (Qiagen). The size of the alleles was determined based on PCR product size relative to the size of the DNA fragment on QX size marker 50-800 bp (Qiagen) and alignment marker 50-1,000 bp (Qiagen). Patterns of DNA band and electrophoregram data were analyzed using QIAxcelScreenGel software 1.5 (Qiagen) to define the microsatellite alleles. The allele score data were then used for the analysis of relevant genetic parameters.

Data Analysis

The observed allele data were processed using Microsoft Excel program. Parameters of genetic variability include a number of alleles (A), allele frequency, observed heterozygosity (H_o) and expected (H_e), Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HW), and fixation index (FIS) were analyzed using Fstat's statistical genetic software version 2.9.3. (Goudet, 2001). Genetic variations within and between populations were analyzed using AMOVA (Analysis of Molecular Variance) found in Arlequin software (Excoffier *et al.*, 2006).

Table 1. Attributes of microsatellite primers used to amplify polymorphic microsatellite alleles in the G-1 and G-2 striped catfish populations

Loci	Motif	Primer sequence (5'-3')	Range size (bp)	T _m (°C)
Pg1	(CA) ₁₈	F: GGCCTGTCACAAATGTGTATTGC R: GTCTGAGGTAGGCCTGTGAGGAG	231-239	64
Pg2	(GA) ₁₄ N ₁₁₆ (GT) ₁₁	F: TGTGTCTAATCTTGTCCGTGCTG R: TACTGTTGGACACGACGTTCCCTC	258-276	60
Pg3	(GT) ₁₆	F: CCAGCCACATTAGGTAGCATC R: ACTAAAAGGCCTGACCCTTAGC	204-220	60
Pg13	(CA) ₂₅	F: GTTTTCCATCCAGGTTGTTTCC R: TAAGTCCATGTGGGTTTCCTCTG	232-262	58
Pg14	(GT) ₅ AT(GT) ₁₁ AT(GT) ₁₃	F: ACCGTGCATGTGCATTATCATAG R: AGAATGTGACCTGGAAATGAGCA	289-293	60

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Polymorphic of Microsatellite Locus

The results of microsatellite analysis on the G-1 and G-2 of striped catfish were presented in Table 2. It showed that the five primers used in this study enabled to amplify and produced polymorphic loci. A

total of 25 different alleles were obtained with sizes ranging from 192 bp to 291 bp. The number of alleles identified in this study was less than the previous study by Na-Nakorn *et al.* (2006), who reported that 28 alleles were obtained using the same primers.

Each locus had 4-7 alleles whereby the highest number of alleles was detected at the Pg1 locus with

Table 2. Genetic variability of five microsatellite loci in the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish

Loci	Parameters	Population	
		G-1	G-2
Pg1	Allele size range (bp)	218-242	218-242
	Number of sample (N)	40	40
	Number of allele (A)	7	7
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.975	0.95
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.800	0.808
	Fixation index (Fis)	-0.221	-0.178
	p-value of Hardy-Weinberg (HW)	0.003	0.000
Pg2	Allele size range (bp)	230-240	230-240
	Number of sample (N)	40	40
	Number of allele (A)	5	5
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.400	0.700
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.750	0.790
	Fixation index (Fis)	0.471	0.115
	p-value of Hardy-Weinberg (HW)	0.000	0.000
Pg3	Allele size range (bp)	192-206	192-206
	Number of sample (N)	40	40
	Number of allele (A)	4	4
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.125	0.325
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.567	0.564
	Fixation index (Fis)	0.782	0.427
	p-value of Hardy-Weinberg (HW)	0.000	0.000
Pg13	Allele size range (bp)	227-233	227-233
	Number of sample (N)	40	40
	Number of allele (A)	4	4
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.05	0.05
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.693	0.638
	Fixation index (Fis)	0.929	0.923
	p-value of Hardy-Weinberg (HW)	0.000	0.000
Pg14	Allele size range (bp)	279-291	279-291
	Number of sample (N)	40	40
	Number of allele (A)	5	5
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.550	0.450
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.700	0.713
	Fixation index (Fis)	0.217	0.372
	p-value of Hardy-Weinberg (HW)	0.000	0.000
Mean	(A) Number of allele (A)	5	5
	Observed heterozygosity (Ho)	0.420	0.495
	Expected heterozygosity (He)	0.702	0.702
	Fixation index (Fis)	0.405	0.298

7 alleles, followed by Pg2 and Pg14 loci with 5 alleles, Pg3 and Pg13 locus with (4 alleles), Pg14 (with 5 alleles) (Tabel 2). Allele size in Pg2 locus has the same expected size as the striped catfish in Vietnam (Na-Nakorn *et al.*, 2006). The average numbers of alleles of the G-1 and G-2 populations were same (5.00). However, it was lower than Vietnam (5.2) (Na-Nakorn *et al.*, 2006). The frequency of alleles for the same locus in each population varied indicating the G-1 and G-2 populations were formed from different genotype sources. The private alleles were not found in the G-1 and G-2 populations. All alleles found in the G-1 were inherited to the G-2 population (Table 2 and Figures 1).

A heterozygote deficit existed since the average of observed heterozygosity (H_o) was less than the expected one (H_e) for all loci and generation levels ($p < 0.05$). A similar result was also found in the striped catfish populations (Na-Nakorn & Moeikum, 2009), African catfish (Imron *et al.*, 2011), tilapia (Gustiano *et al.*, 2013), and common carp (Syahputra *et al.*, 2016). The appearance of homozygote excess could be caused by a selection program (Allendorf & Luikart, 2007; Garcia de Leon *et al.*, 1997).

The apparent inbreeding levels in the G-1 and G-2 populations were also signaled by the average F_{ST} index fixation (inter-population fixation index) and F_{IT} (total population fixation index). Table 3 showed that the mean values of F_{IS} , F_{ST} , and F_{IT} fixation indices were all positive.

The results of genetic variation analysis using AMOVA showed that the genetic variation in the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish was more due to the genetic variation within and among the individuals and genetic variation among individuals in each generation with the percentages of 63.02% and 34.21%, respectively. The genetic differentiation between populations only contributed a small proportion (2.77%) to the genetic variation of both fast-growing striped catfish generations (Table 4).

In this study, the striped catfish populations had relatively low genetic variation. This result suggests that monitoring of genetic variation and scheme of good spawning are needed on the next selection program to produce fast-growing striped catfish. Based on the research findings, better spawning schemes and improving the aquaculture techniques on the selection program should be considered to avoid inbreeding depression.

CONCLUSION

The five microsatellite loci used were polymorphic in the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish. The genetic diversity between the G-1 and G-2 populations has few differences. In addition, there was a deficit of heterozygosity in both populations. Inbreeding occurred in both populations, and the G-1 population had a higher inbreeding level than that of the G-2 population. Genetic variation in

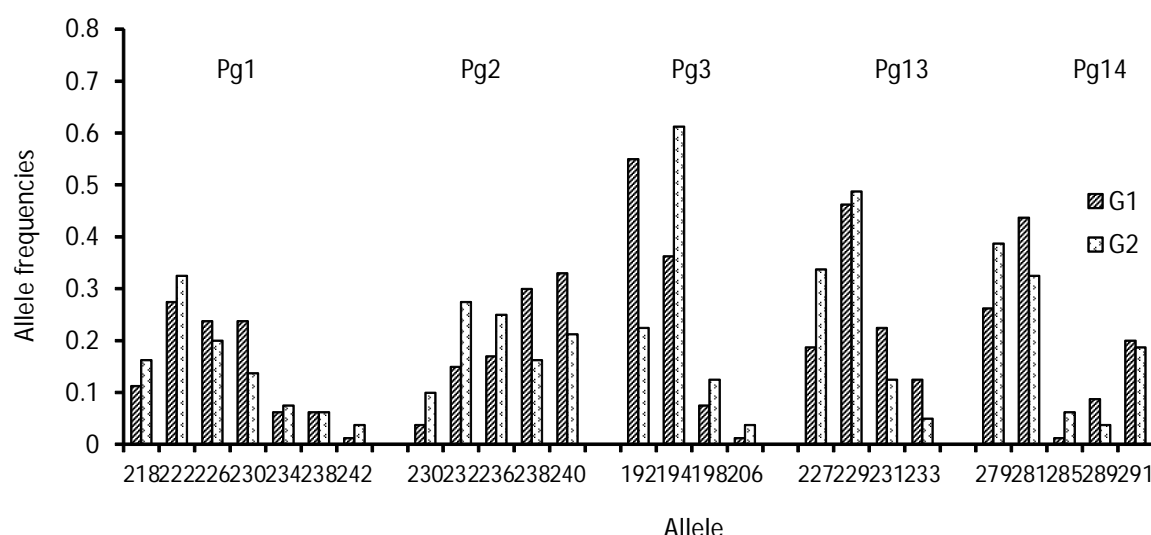


Figure 1. Number and distribution of alleles frequencies in G-1 and G-2 of fast-growing striped catfish at each microsatellite locus.

Table 3. The f-statistic value in the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish

Loci	F _{IS}	F _{ST}	F _{IT}
Pg1	0.199	0.001	-0.198
Pg2	0.289	0.022	0.304
Pg3	0.605	0.115	0.651
Pg4	0.926	0.005	0.926
Pg5	0.295	0.007	0.300
Average	0.344	0.027	0.344

Table 4. The Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) in the G-1 and G-2 populations of fast-growing striped catfish

Source of variation	db	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage of variation
Among generation	1	6.406	0.05	2.77
Among individuals within generation	78	186.062	0.62	34.21
Within populations	80	91.50	1.14	63.02
Total	159	283.97	1.81	

the G-1 and G-2 generations of fast-growing striped catfish was more due to genetic variation in individuals and genetic variation among the individuals in the population than in the genetic differentiation between populations.

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